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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION
Land Utilization Division
Land Use Planning Section

BULLETIN OF FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION AFFECTING LAND USE

No. 19

Week Ending May 13, 1937

(Primarily for the information of Land Use Planning personnel
of the Resettlement Administration and collaborating offices
and agencies.)

Legislatures - Regular Sessions

New York Adjourned May 7

Legislatures - Special Sessions

Maryland Adjourned May 6 Arizona Convened May 10

Legislatures now in Regular Session:

California	Massachusetts	Oklahoma
Colorado	Michigan	Pennsylvania
Connecticut	Missouri	South Carolina
Delaware	Nebraska	Tennessee
Florida	New Hampshire	Texas
Illinois	New Jersey	Wisconsin
	Ohio	

I. FEDERAL LEGISLATION

TENANCY

H. R. 6836. Mr. Boileau.

To create a Farmers' Security Corporation capitalized at \$500,000,000 to establish farms and improve the situation of farm tenants, sharecroppers and farm laborers. The corporation shall have power to acquire real property suitable for farming or farm homes, construct necessary buildings, improve, develop, and insure property. Farm tenants, sharecroppers and farm laborers may apply to the corporation through the County Committee (elected by the tenants in the county) for leases and contracts to purchase, preference to be given married persons with dependent families. Real property held by the corporation shall be tax exempt but the corporation shall make payments to the taxing units in lieu of taxes. Title II provides for rehabilitation loans to individuals or cooperatives upon recommendation of the county committee for the purchase of livestock, equipment, and seed for five year periods or less at not exceeding 12% interest. The

corporation may not acquire or dispose of real or personal property or make loans in any state which has not provided that all landlord and tenant and sharecropper contracts shall be in writing and tenants shall be reimbursed for improvements.

To Committee on Agriculture, May 4.

II. STATE LEGISLATION

(Includes only outstanding proposals likely to be of interest to Legislatures other than the one in which the bill is introduced.)

DRAINAGE, IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL

Minnesota. S. B. 1218.

To develop a water resources conservation program controlling the appropriation and use of surface and underground waters. The Commission of Conservation shall, after investigation, develop a water conservation program and thereafter issue permits for reservoir construction, the use or appropriation of any water upon application and hearing.

Approved April 26, Laws 1937, Chapter 468.

New York. A. B. 1686-1875. Mr. Bush.

To appropriate \$275,000 to cooperate with the federal flood control program.

Approved April 23, Laws 1937, Chapter 275.

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

Connecticut. H. B. 1545. Committee on Reorganization.

To create a state department of Finance and Control under the supervision of a Commission.

Introduced April 21.

GRAZING

Nevada. A. B. 268. Mr. Agee.

To authorize the state land register to exchange state lands for lands of United States pursuant to the Taylor Grazing Act.

Approved March 20, Laws 1937, Chapter 94.

INTERSTATE COMPACTS

Vermont. H. B. 366. Conservation and Development Committee.

To ratify a compact with the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire, for the creation of a commission to facilitate flood control works on the Connecticut River.

Approved April 10.

Vermont. H. B. 385. Committee on Conservation and Development.

To provide for cooperation by the states with the Connecticut River Valley Flood Control Commission in the acquisition of lands, easements and rights of way essential for flood control purposes, and

to enable the State to comply with the provisions of the compact entered into by it with Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire.

Approved April 10.

LAND USE

Minnesota. S. B. 1117. Messrs. Galvin and Carley.

To authorize the creation of Soil Conservation Districts for the purpose of conserving soil resources and preventing and controlling soil erosion. This bill is similar to the Standard Soil Conservation Districts Act of the Department of Agriculture, except that there is nothing compulsory upon the land occupier. There is no appropriation to carry out the provisions of the Act.

Approved April 26, Laws 1937, Chapter 441.

Nevada. A. B. 208.

To authorize the Department of Highways to construct and maintain a system of secondary roads including farm-to-market roads in cooperation with the Federal Government.

Approved March 12, Laws 1937, Chapter 64.

Ohio. S. B. 69. Mr. Laird.

To codify the law relating to Conservancy Districts, organization, powers and finance.

Approved April 19.

Oklahoma. S. B. 208. Mr. Whitaker.

To authorize the creation of Soil Conservation Districts for the purpose of conserving soil resources and preventing and controlling soil erosion. This bill is similar to the Standard Soil Conservation Districts Act of the Department of Agriculture. There is an appropriation of \$60,000 for fiscal year 1938 and \$90,000 for fiscal year 1939.

Approved April 15.

PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS

Colorado. H. B. 676. Mr. Taylor.

To authorize the State Board of Land Commissioners to enter into cooperative agreements with the W.P.A., C.C.C., Soil Conservation Service, or any other Federal Agency for the improvement and betterment of state owned land and to furnish necessary materials and tools. An appropriation of \$2,500 is proposed.

Introduced January 19.

Passed House May 5.

Florida. S. B. 90. Mr. McArthur.

H. R. 103. Messrs. Dendy and Gray.

To authorize the Board of Forestry to establish the Florida Park Service to administer and develop state parks. Lands may be acquired by the County Commissioners and transferred to the Park Service for development and administration.

To Committee on Forestry, April 9.

Minnesota. H. B. 1571. Mr. Lockwood.

To create a Commission (5 members of House 5 Senate members, and Commissioner of Conservation) to make an investigation and study of the development of woodlots, windbreaks, and shelterbelts in agricultural areas, classification and zoning of tax-forfeited lands into agricultural and non-agricultural areas, the payment of indebtedness against state forest lands and conservation areas and make a report with recommendations to the next legislature. There is an appropriation of \$1,000.

Approved April 24, Laws 1937, Chapter 391

Minnesota. S. B. 915. Mr. Johnson.

To extend the authority of the conservator to sell lands, acquired by the state on mortgage foreclosures, on the crop payment plan. Should the former owner of the farm sold for satisfaction of a mortgage desire to repurchase the farm from the State conservator and does not avail himself of the crop payment plan, the conservator is authorized to offer the farm for sale on a crop payment plan, with a down payment of 15% to any bona fide farmer. Crop payment contracts are not assignable except in the case of death or incapacity of the vendee. All sales and compromises in connection with the crop payment plan must be approved by a judge of the district court.

Approved April 24, Laws 1937, Chapter 409.

Oklahoma. S. B. 94. Mr. Broadus.

To empower the County Commissioners to execute exchanges or conveyances of County owned lands to the Federal Government to aid in its acquisition of such lands required for forestry reserves, game preserves, parks, irrigation or drainage projects, or necessary buildings.

Approved March 26.

REAL PROPERTY

Oklahoma. S. B. 272. Mr. Lowrance.

To create a Farm and Landlord and Tenant Relationship Department to create a closer relationship between farm landlords and tenants. The Department shall make a study of landlord and tenant situations and undertake improvements by the preparation of equitable rental contracts, inaugurate an educational program on the advantages of long term contracts, assisting in organizing farm organizations and cooperatives and establish bases for arbitration proceedings. The Director of the Extension Department selects the Supervisor, charged with administering the Act. There is an appropriation of \$2,500 for fiscal year ending June 30, 1937, and \$12,500 annually for the succeeding two fiscal years.

Approved April 28.

Vermont. H. B. 398. General Committee.

To authorize the creation of housing authorities in cities and towns to aid and cooperate in housing projects for families of low income.

Approved April 12.

TAXATION

Florida. H. B. 937. Mr. Lewis.

To provide for the disposal of land sold to the State for nonpayment of taxes. Except for land used for homestead purposes, all land sold to the State on which taxes have not been paid for five years or more shall become the absolute property of the State without the privilege of redemption. All such land is then subject to disposal by a board composed of five State officials. It is subject to homestead entry in 160-acre tracts at a price of not less than 50 cents an acre, but the state board may sell such land in tracts of not over 1,000 acres at a price of not less than ten dollars an acre when it deems such disposal expedient. The board may also set aside as parks up to 500,000 acres of the tax-reverted land, but this disposition must be approved by the Legislature. Every applicant for a homestead must pay a fee of ten dollars if the tract to be entered is 80 acres or over; five dollars if the tract is smaller.

To Public Lands Committee, April 30.

Florida. H. B. 958. Mr. Fuller.

To authorize the county boards to levy a tax not to exceed 5 mills for agricultural purposes.

To Committee on Agriculture, April 20.

Florida. S. B. 432. Mr. Tervin.

All tax sale certificates covering homestead property issued by the State and now held by it are canceled.

To Judiciary "B", April 26.

H. A. Hockley

